

# Police commissioner killed in Abuja robbery

**T**he Commissioner in charge of Mobile Police at the force headquarters was killed by a gang of armed robbers as he drove out of Abuja yesterday.

Mr. Felix Orteka was shot in the head four times by a

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gang of six robbers who had set up a barricade on the Independence Avenue in broad daylight.

The robbers blocked the road with their car near the National Stadium and robbed the cars that stopped for about 20 minutes. They also robbed customers in the AUA Plaza. They shot

another man standing in AUA Plaza. He is in the hospital with gunshot wounds to the belly and arm.

Another policeman was beaten and had his gun

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stolen, police said.

Idowu Olatubosu, a mechanic at the back of the Churchgate Plaza said: "I was working in my shop when we saw a Toyota car running after a police vehicle. And the next thing we saw was four gun shots on the policeman's head. And minutes later, we went to the road and saw blood on the ground."

A police source told *Daily Trust* that the late mobile police boss was moving in a police pick-up van alone and did not have back-up or security men with him at the time. He was heading for the airport.

The robbers carted away thousands of naira and other valuables, traders at the scene said. The robbers came in three vans, their operation lasted for more than 20 minutes.

Mallam Nasir Abdulhamid, a businessman who was robbed by the gang told *Daily Trust*: "When the robbers came into the plaza I was writing, they parked a gold Toyota Camry, another outside and the third was used to cross the main road from the airport. The six men who came into the plaza separated themselves. The one who came into my shop told me to fall to the ground and bring my money and I told him I had no money. He cocked his gun and threatened to kill me.

"Fortunately for me the other robber in the next shop called him and he left taking my two handsets," he said.

The traumatised Abdulhamid who was still jittery while narrating his ordeal said: "When the robber left, they shot a man

called Ezekiel in the stomach and on the hand and he was lying helplessly in a pool of blood."

He continued: "Fortunately for me, the robbers left without coming back to my shop. And it was then that we took the stranger to the National Hospital in my car. And at the hospital, the doctor said the victim who had blood group O had lost much blood and needed four bags of blood to resuscitate him." According to him, the blood was difficult to come by because of his blood group.

Precious Ewelike, a rice seller who lost over N500,000 to the robbers, said when they came into her shop she thought it was a joke. "We were looking at them when they said we should fall to the ground and bring out our money. It was when they

released two bullets into the air that we realised they were robbers. And I gave out all the money we sold for the day to them," she lamented.

Lunch time customers who spoke on condition of anonymity were so excited that they did not fall victim. "We were saved from the robbers because when we realised they were robbers we were locked inside the shop by the owner."

The death of the Mopol commander was confirmed by the Force spokesman, Mr. Haz Iwendi, and the remains were deposited at the National Hospital mortuary.

The Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr Sunday Ehindero, has ordered full investigation into the death of the commissioner.